/44 cont'd/

are only rarely seen. The ho-ts'ang (or drying bin) and the granary are both built beside the house. The domesticated animals are pastured in the open fields. Corrals for cattle and pens for swine are very rarely seen.

4. Travel

The Miao live high in the mountains. From the bottom to the top of a single mountain is a long distance. Furthermore, the mountain paths are usually steep and rugged and difficult to travel on. During our field trip, we were always exhausted after visiting a Miao village, and it always took us a long time to recover. But the Miao, whether young or old, male or female, are all energetic and light as birds. They do not appear to be tired even after they have climbed several high peaks. Moreover, they all walk barefooted. Sharp stones and thorns do not bother them, and they never hurt themselves. It is usually more /45/ than a hundred li to and from a Chinese market. Starting off in the morning and returning in the evening, they never stay a day or half a day more than necessary. Only a few relatively wealthy persons ride horses.

5. Social Intercourse

The Miao are very polite in their social intercourse whether with relatives or friends. When guests leave, the host always sees them out the door. As he sees his guests off, he bends his body slightly forward with head bowed and both hands raised to the level of his head, and the guests do the same.

/261 cont./

166 bellowing, and cheering can be heard for miles. Consequently
484 it seldom happens that the advanced guard encounters game,
for the larger animals of the forest have usually taken cover
in plenty of time. During the migration, a playful or childlike
[157] impulse for destruction against the forest is also expressed, which
[824] leads the people to damage plants and trees out of sheer wanton-
ness. For example, I never saw a Meau pass a rubber liana /262/
without cutting the plant with the chopping knife merely for the
pleasure of seeing the juice ooze out.

361 For the choice of the settlement site, the altitude is of
133 fundamental significance. One can even say that the settlements
of the Meau are actually limited to certain altitudes. I myself
did not find any Meau village below 1,200 meters in altitude,
and other authors (1), too, are struck by the settlement pattern,

1. Credner, II, p. 138.

limited to certain altitudes, of the various mountain and forest peoples in Thailand.

361 Within these altitude limits, the Meau carefully seek out
a suitable slope. They never build a village on a level surface,
a saddle, or on the peak of a mountain. They most prefer to
choose a place which lies just below the crest line of a mountain
range.

In territories in which the Meau must reckon with hostile influences, they lay out their dwelling sites so as to make access as difficult as possible. Thus, Marabail (2) writes of the Meau

2. Page 133.

of Tonkin: "They choose the steep inclines of the mountains
• [417] for their dwellings... They reach these heights by means of
bamboo ladders tied together, which are sometimes three hun-
dred meters long."

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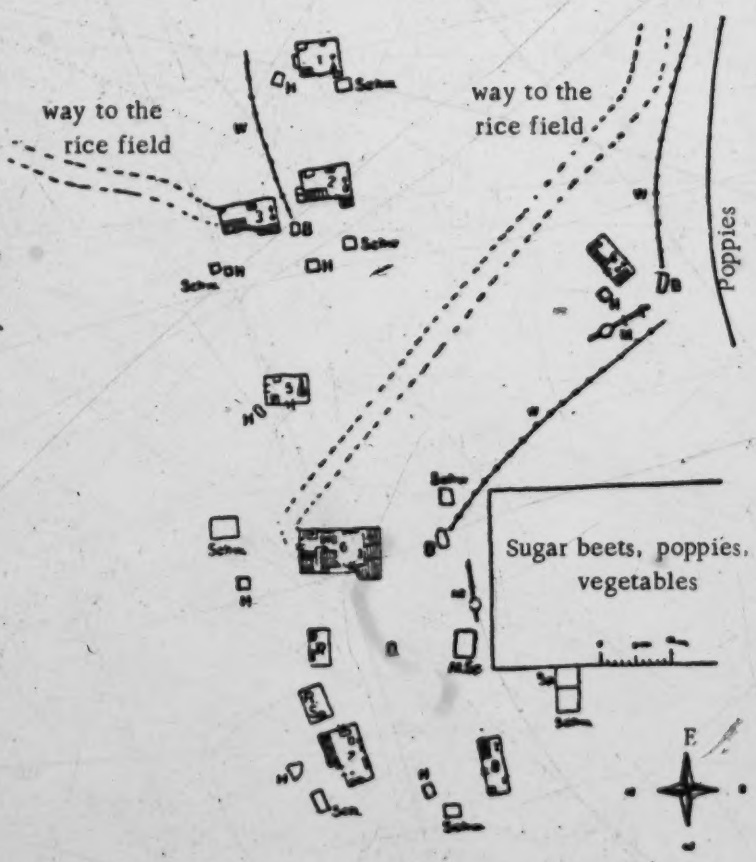

Fig. 57. Plan of the Meau Village Nam Fa.

Key to symbols:

1-8 = Dwellings	B = Wells
▭ = Sleeping places	R = Cattle stable
⊢○ = Rice pounder	M. Sp. = Maize granary
□ = Hearth	R. Sp. = Rice granary
Schw. = Pigpen	M = Rice mill
H = Chicken coop	Sch. = Smithy
W = Water line	D = Village square

/268 cont./ If needed,

342 sleeping rooms, too, are often built on. The basic form of the houses and the roofs is always the same, however. A pigsty [573] and a chicken coop also belong to each house, whereas cattle [417] are usually kept by only a few families. [231]

Cleanliness is a relative idea. In comparison with the 356 scrupulously clean houses of the Lao, the dwellings of the Meau certainly leave much to be desired. At many houses the refuse lies in front of the door for days before it is removed. In other places one sees the women busy at sweeping the house and washing the dishes regularly. Even on important festive days the appearance of the house and yard does not change much. One recognizes by the old rotten trash covered with soot and dirt until it is beyond recognition, which often fills up the houses, that the Meau women /269/ feel no need to create order. To be sure, each move of the village provides an opportunity for 364 it, and this must suffice. There are no toilets. Places outside the village are sought at random and are well known by the dogs and pigs, since they devour all the excrement with amazing thoroughness and thus perform valuable sanitary service.

342 The ground plan, sketch, cross-section, and drawing of the framework of the chief's house (Figs. 63, 64, 65, and 66) and of the dwelling house (Figs. 67, 68, 69 and 70) with their respective legends indicate the size, construction, and shape of the dwellings without anything more, so I have only a little to add.

[Figures appear on pp 371-377, Text continues on p 378]

/278 cont./

342 joiners, etc., all at the same time. They say: 'If we were able to make salt, we would easily surpass all other peoples.'"

[313] Savina (2) writes further: "The wood most used for construction

2. II, p. 189.

purposes and also for burning is that of pines (Pinus rigida), which is common in the mountains. There are two kinds of pine wood, black and red."

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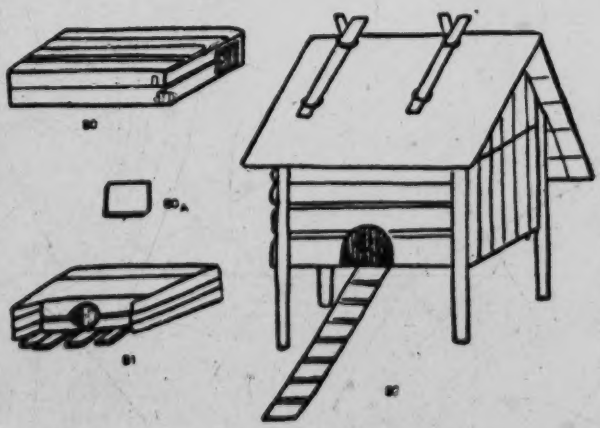
Fig. 79.
Granary of the Meau.
1/100 nat. size.

[417]



Figs. 80-82. Chicken Coops of the Meau.

Fig. 80-81. Boxlike chicken coops on the ground, 1/44 nat. size. Fig. 82. Chicken coop on piles, 1/36 nat. size.

/278 cont./

2. Granaries

343 Whereas the dwellings of the Meau are always built on the ground, the granaries rest on piles up to two meters high, in order to protect the field produce from the humidity and from the unwelcome intrusion of mice, rats, pigs, and from the other domestic animals. There are open granaries, which usually are several meters long and three to /279/ four meters high and consist of merely a /Fig. 79 appears here/ platform covered by a leaf-roof. Field produce is stored here as long as it still needs drying. During the rainy season, however, granaries which are closed off by four board-walls and built very solidly are used. They have only one small doorlike opening, through which one has to creep in order to store ears of maize, sheaves of grain, millet, or tubers in it (Fig. 79).

3. Stables

231 Although special shelters are always built for chickens and
343 pigs, these domestic animals usually stay in the dwelling during the day or in its immediate vicinity. The pigs lie in the living room under a bench or table or at the hearth, as they please. /Figs. 80-82 appear here/ /280/ while the chickens busily search for food in all the nooks and corners. No scrap is scorned.
[417] Chicken coops in the form of large boxes (Figs. 80 and 81) are usually lodged at the house wall. They are made of boards joined together and are closed with a suitable piece of wood (Fig. 80, A). There are also, however, chicken houses resting on piles (Fig. 82).

231 The pigpens are put together with stout wooden sticks and are
343 of various sizes, according to the wealth of the owner /Figs. 83
417 and 84 appear here/ (Fig. 83). There are large troughs for fodder
[554] inside the pens (Fig. 84). At night the cattle are housed in hurdle-like stables. In them, on an underlayer of boards that is raised about 15 centimeters and rests on stones, and under a gabled roof covered with palm leaves, they are well-protected from dampness. The hurdle is enclosed on the sides with a

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M /280 cont./
231 lattice of wooden beams. On the front side some of these beams
343 can be pushed aside in order to let the cattle in or out. Similar
hurdles are customary among our mountain peasants.
417 Lajonquière (1) describes the quarters of the domestic animals in

1. II. p. 305.

almost the same way, and furthermore Abadie (2) and

2. Page 158.

Fig. 83. Pigpen of the Meau. 1/60 natural size.

Fig. 84. Trough for pig fodder. 1/36 nat. size.

Savina (3), too.

3. II, p. 186.

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4. Smithies

The smithy (Figs. 85 and 86) is a small structure built in the fashion of the dwelling, which consists of a workroom open at the sides and a second room enclosed with leaf-walls (E).
M [325] The workroom is enclosed by only a few wooden beams (D) and, appropriately for the steep terrain, is on a platform. In it

39: Bernatzik--416 E-5 (1936-1937) 1947 AO1 Thailand
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/305 cont./

353 352 415 knives, wooden spoons, a grater, small baskets with spices and fruits, vegetables and dried roots, a gourd dipper, a wooden ladle for dipping, and the like. For storing porcelain dishes there are also special hanging baskets with tightly plaited sides and a loosely plaited cover (Fig. 131). Also, a low table for parking things on (Figs. 117 and 132) stands on the other side of the hearth, and next to it there is a bamboo container for the chopsticks (Fig. 133).

352 353 From the storage loft a large wooden hook hangs down, which has to bear the weight of the heavy water kettle. Also, small hooks carved out of wood and some made of deer-horn, as well as branch-whorls (Figs. 134, 135, and 136), hang on the walls and are used to hang up various pots, baskets, and utensils (see also Fig. 117).

Whereas such devices for putting away and hanging up utensils and the aforementioned wall boards and shelves are present in abundance, chests and cupboards are completely [184] lacking among the Meau who have settled in Thailand.

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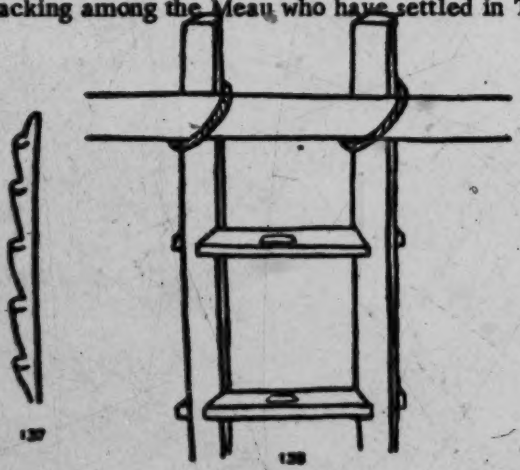

Figs. 137-138. Ladders of the Meau.
Fig. 137. Notched tree-trunk, about 1/20 nat. size.
Fig. 138. Ladder with steps, 1/6 nat. size.

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/305 cont./

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Other important pieces of furniture are the ladders, which /Figs. 137-138 appear here/ /306/ lead to the storage lofts. They are either tree trunks provided with notches (Fig. 137) or ladders with steps (Fig. 138). /Fig. 139 appears here./

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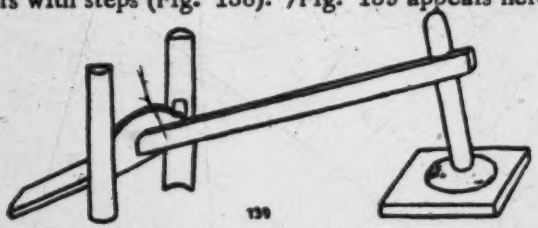

Fig. 139. Grain mortar of the Meau. 1/28 nat. size.

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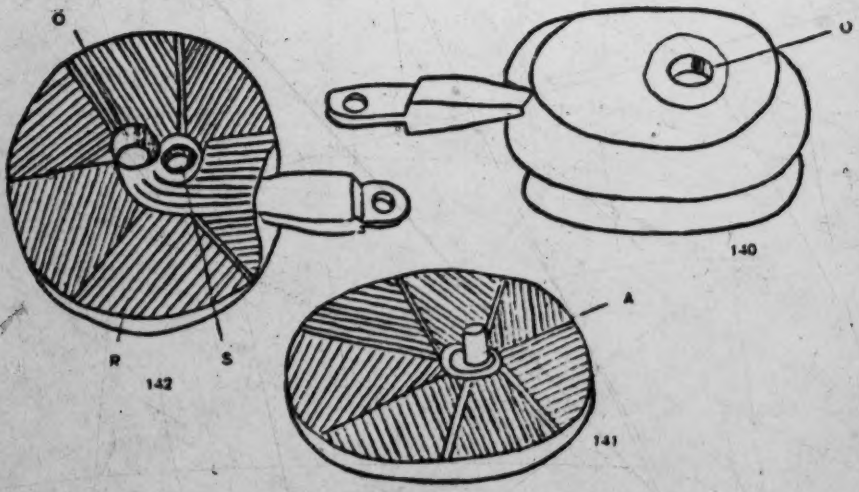

Fig. 140-142. Grain mill of the Meau, 1/10 nat. size. Fig. 140. Millstones, joined. Fig. 141, lower, and Fig. 142, upper millstone. O = opening for pouring in the grain, R = grooves, S = hole for pivot A.

/354 cont./

178 Lajonquière (2), too, has devoted attention to the culti-
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2. II, p. 309.

vation of this field product among the Meau: "Wherever the Meau were able to adopt wet-rice fields, they have preferred to devote themselves to this work."

241 When the Meau in Thailand has found a suitable site in the forest for laying out fields, he goes there at the beginning [596] of the dry season with the members of his large /extended/ [782] family, sacrifices spirit-money, and requests first the ancestors and then the high Father-Mother spirit to help him and to protect him and his family against falling trees. Then all possible [787] omens are carefully noted. If no bad omens are discovered and none appear during the clearing that is now begun, the work is diligently continued. First the brush and the small trees, later the larger ones, are cut. Giant trunks, however, which offer /355/ too much resistance to the axes of the natives, are only hacked circularly, and the brush is piled up high around them. If resinous pine is encountered during this work, it is [314] left standing, but tapped so that the resin flowing out, which is a desirable product, will collect in the hollows of the tree. About a month later, when the cut underbrush and wood are thoroughly dry, the field is burned off and cleared of the half-burned wood; the latter is now piled around the trunks of the still unconquered primeval-forest giants, and everything is set afire again. Thus, even the mightiest trunks are finally [243] destroyed and only slightly hinder the growing seed of the mountain rice in its development under their crowns now stripped of foliage.

243 During the time between the burning and the first rains, which are awaited for the cultivation so that the forest soil will be sufficiently softened to receive the seed, the Meau [343] erect a small workhouse which is never lacking (Ill. 104).[1] On the other hand, no fence is built around the field, unless [417] it borders on the field of another. In that case a fence of [423] crude wooden sticks is erected on the boundary line. After

[1] [see cat 116, P705- ANALYST]

39: Bernatzik--495 E-5 (1936-1937) 1947 AO1 Thailand

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/365 cont./

e) Animal Husbandry

M 231 [262] [782]

The Meau are good livestock raisers. The main emphasis is on the raising of pigs, because the animals are regarded not only as food, but also as the most important sacrificial animals. The Meau raise only a very primitive breed similar to the wild pig, which is crossed with the latter, since the domestic pigs run about freely in the villages and their surroundings during the day. At night, however, they are put in pens built especially for them.

M [417]

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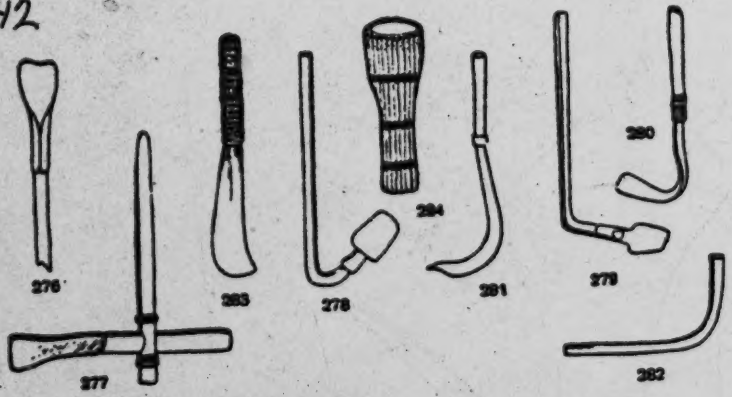

Figs. 276-284. Agricultural Equipment of the Akha.

Fig. 276. Digging stick, 1/11 nat. size. Fig. 277. Ax, 1/14 nat. size. Figs. 278-279. Field hoe, 1/28 nat size. Fig. 280. Weeding rake, 1/10 nat. size. Fig. 281. Sickle, 1/12 nat. size. Fig. 282. Threshing flail of hard wood, oval in cross-section, 1/80 nat. size. Fig. 283. Jungle knife, 1/19 nat. size. Fig. 284. Sheath of bamboo, 1/18 nat. size.

A [243]